

Balcombe C E (C) School



Homework Policy

Adopted by Governors: Feb 2010

Reviewed: 2012
2013
2015

Next Review: Jun 2017

At Balcombe, we will set homework :

- to stimulate and encourage children with their learning
- to encourage children to work and learn independently
- to encourage children to organise themselves and their time sensibly
- to practise and consolidate important skills or techniques
- to involve families and parents in their children's learning

Expectations of Teachers

- to set work appropriate to a child's needs
- to ensure children know what to do, when the work is for (homework diaries for Yrs 4,5,6 and written instructions for other classes) and to provide feedback to pupils
- to establish clear homework routines and expectations and to give children sufficient time to complete work
- to make the homework as interesting as possible – providing a range of tasks and challenges
- to provide children with timely feedback about their homework

Expectations of Pupils

- to complete work set to the best of their ability
- to ensure work is completed/handed in at the required time

Expectations of Parents

- to support the school's homework policy
- to encourage and support (when appropriate) child/children with their homework
- to encourage child/children to organise themselves and their time sensibly and to assume greater responsibility for their own learning as they become older
- to support children with their learning and school work in particular specific aspects of the work that might be proving difficult (reading, letters and sounds, spellings, number bonds, table facts, handwriting).

Frequency Guidelines

The frequency of formal set homework will increase as a child gets older. Usually homework will be set on certain days but some flexibility is needed to reflect changing circumstances and the varying rhythms of the school year (eg rehearsals, Christmas production, Bowles Week, class illnesses, assessment preparation and recovery). Homework will not be set simply for homework's sake. Whereupon a child is finding a particular aspect of work problematic, individual suggestions for additional targeted work may be given by the class teacher or learning support teacher in consultation with parents.

We expect that all children will complete homework to a high standard and on time. Parents are encouraged to discuss homework with children and look at it before it is returned to school. Children not completing homework at home will be asked to do so in their own time during the school day.

Homework Frequency Guidelines

We expect that all children are encouraged to read daily at home for a sustained period of time. We hope that parents of children in years R-3 will find the time to hear their children read every day in addition to sharing a book at bedtime. Older children should still read daily as this is hugely beneficial and “book talk” with parents will help to develop their comprehension and understanding of more difficult texts.

Evidence shows that children who regularly share books with adults at home develop more fluency in reading, better comprehension skills and more enjoyment from texts. This not only improves reading confidence and skills for later life but leads to greater achievement in writing.

Children are also given number facts to learn each half term and tested before and after. Quick recall of these facts/strategies will have a positive impact on their ability to calculate efficiently and accurately.

In addition children are expected to complete the following weekly:

Year R/1/2	Word/sound recognition flashcards and letter formation practice as appropriate.
Year 1-6	<p>Maths – activities to practise number facts for the half term.</p> <p>Spelling – list based around pattern or rule or year group’s words. List of possible activities – children choose.</p> <p>General – half termly grid – lots of choices – different areas, learning styles. Children choose which activities to complete.</p> <p>Once each half term, children will be given a piece of writing for redrafting – different focus or choice – presentation, punctuation, vocab etc.</p>

Children who do not complete the spelling or maths work and hand it in on time, will be asked to complete the work in their lunchtime. Completed extended tasks will be rewarded with team points.